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Bridgeton residents allege that radioactive waste found in home came from West Lake Landfill

By ELI CHEN • 6 MINUTES AGO

Residents in Bridgeton, Mo., have filed a lawsuit this afternoon in the St. Louis County Circuit Court, alleging that radioactive waste was found at a home near the West Lake Landfill.

The lawsuit names nine companies, including landfill owner Republic Services, the Cotter Corporation and Mallinckrodt Inc. The plaintiffs are Michael and Robbin Dailey, who live in the Spanish Lake community. According to the lawsuit, a test conducted at their property found that the waste contains "high level of uranium decay products, including thorium, lead, radon."

It also mentioned that dust inside their home contained levels of the radioactive element Thorium-230 that were at least 200 times higher than background levels.

The West Lake Landfill, a federally listed Superfund site, contains World War II-era nuclear waste that was illegally dumped there in the 1970s. It sits approximately 600 feet from an underground smoldering fire under the Bridgeton Landfill.

"The Environmental Protection Agency has not received any new data regarding any migration off-site of radiologically impacted material from the West Lake Landfill," EPA spokesperson Angela Brees said in an email. "As we have previously stated, if individuals have new scientifically valid data that we could evaluate they should share that with EPA. The protection

of human health and the environment remains EPA's highest priority at the West Lake site and all current, scientifically valid, data available to EPA demonstrate no off-site health risk to residents or employees in the local area."

Area activists have long pressed for a voluntary buyout for residents living near the landfill. A press release from activist group Just Moms STL has called on the EPA and Gov. Jay Nixon to relocate families immediately.

"We have not seen the suit, or any scientific data to support its foundation," said Russ Knocke, spokesperson for Republic Services. "For years, federal regulators, state officials and third-party experts have been clear that the Landfill is safe. There has been no evidence that supports a claim for off-site contamination. The Landfill remains in a managed state."